

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2003
7: 30p.m.
ELA TOWNSHIP SENIOR CENTER
Foglia YMCA.
1025 Old McHenry Road
Lake Zurich, IL.
Approved 4-13-04**

1. Call to Order

Clerk Prouty called the Annual Town Meeting to order at precisely 7:30p.m.

2. Pledge Of Allegiance

Clerk Prouty led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Election of Moderator/Set Fee

At this Time the Clerk opened the floor for nominations for moderator. Supervisor Tinerella nominated Trustee Sullivan, seconded by Tom Tinerella. After Clerk Prouty asked for nominations from the floor three times, Assessor Hoffman's motion to close the nominations for moderator, seconded by Tom Tinerella. All in favor and the motion carried with a majority of register voters voting aye. Trustee Sullivan was elected moderator.

Assessor Hoffman made a motion to set the moderator's fee at \$25.00, seconded by Highway Commissioner Kruckenberg. The Motion carried with a majority of registered voters voting aye.

Moderator Trustee Sullivan donated his moderator's fee of \$25.00 to the Diabetes Association.

4. Approval of the Minutes of 2002 Annual Town Meeting

Highway Commissioner Kruckenberg moved to approve the 2002 Annual Town Meeting Minutes, seconded by Tom Tinerella. The majority of register voters voted aye and the motion carried.

**5. Township Supervisor's Annual Financial Statement for the fiscal year 2002-
read by the Town Clerk**

Supervisor's Annual Statement

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
<u>Fund Balance</u>	<u>April 1, 2002</u>	<u>March 31, 2003</u>
<u>General Town</u>	<u>\$1,989,329.07</u>	<u>\$2,177,721.34</u>
<u>General Assistance</u>	<u>\$305,163.70</u>	<u>\$343,856.22</u>
<u>General Road</u>	<u>\$515,825.43</u>	<u>\$534,772.55</u>
<u>Perm Road</u>	<u>\$714,676.47</u>	<u>\$731,062.38</u>
<u>Parks</u>	<u>\$784,960.06</u>	<u>\$898,809.34</u>

6. Annual (5 minute Update from Elected Officials- Township Supervisor/Treasurer, Highway Commissioner, Assessor, Clerk, Trustees, and Staff-Senior Director, Youth Director, and Information Services Manager Supervisor Tinerella/ Treasurer Report

Important Highlights:

1. Ela Township has started an after school Youth Program for Middle School age children.
2. Ela Area Sports Organization collectively said they have provided information on needing approximately twenty more acres for more playing and practice fields. This has led the Township into discussions on land acquisition.
3. The Township has funded almost \$ 200,000 to social agencies and Community Organization in the year 2002. Therefore a formal funding request has been instrumented and the grantees receive their funding on a quarterly bases, after reviews of the funding requests.
4. Emmaus House of Hospitality is a new organization that provides hot meals every Sunday night at St. Francis Church for needy families. The Funding that the Township provided in the last fiscal year was \$7500 and \$14,000 in the present year. This is used to provide items that cannot be obtained at the food pantry.
5. In the Month of July an Ordinance was passed establishing 5 standing Township Board committees. This was done to help make recommendations to bring to the board. Committees: Finance, Social Agency Funding, Parks and Recreation, Youth and Family Counseling and Legal.
6. Sponsored projects for Boy Scouts to become Eagle Scouts. Trustee Burch has led these activities and thus far his son, Tim worked on a project to build three display cases for the Ela Historic Society and in late Fall, Matt Chiarelli worked on a project to help the Township plant trees and bushes around Knigge Park. Ela Township welcomes all organizations to present plans for their community service projects or hours.
7. In November the Township won two State awards from the Township Officials of Illinois. One for the "55 Plus" Newsletter and the other for Senior Director Sue Neuschel winning Director of the year from the Illinois Township Association of Senior Citizens Services. The Township continued the practice of sponsoring a Holiday Christmas Party for Senior Citizens fifty-five and older. This year we had an all time record-breaking attendance of over three hundred and fifty. The Township intergenerational outing at the Marriott drew three hundred.
8. The dispatching and Administration work for the Bus service has been moved from the Township main office to the Highway Department office. This will enable everything pertaining to the Buses be centralized in one place of operation.
9. We continue to keep the Township residents informed of Township events and happenings in the Township quarterly newsletter.

10. Update of future events.

- a. Mosquito abatement.
- b. With the moving of the Bus Services, we now have resources to work on the Website.
- c. Continue Park Improvements
- d. Concession Stand at Knox Park
- e. Work on the Soccer Field at Knigge Park
- f. Resurfacing of the Tennis courts and Hockey Rinks.
- g. New signs and landscaping around them at all Parks.
- h. Building improvements
- i. Possible Land Acquisitions
- j. Possible Ela Township Social worker

Highway Commissioner's Report

The Highway Department maintains approximately 26 miles of unincorporated roads. We have incorporated Old Barn into the road district. I have a great staff of 4 full time and 1 part-time employees. This does not include summer help. Included in the full time, we have added office personnel to assist the residents, and dispatch the buses.

We have increased our revenue by signing an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Kildeer for minor road maintenance. The Village of Long Grove and Deer Park are looking at signing on to do the same type of an Intergovernmental agreement. This is a tax savings to the Villages and revenue to the Township. The services that we provide to our residents come first, and the work we do for the Village comes second.

We have also signed an agreement with the Village of Lake Zurich for them to do mechanical work on our vehicles. We still do maintenance in the garage such as brakes and oil changes. Lake Zurich will do the heavier work. Our Department also signed an intergovernmental agreement with Fremont Highway Department to purchase a jet rodder. These two agreements will be a savings to our department.

We have developed a good working relationship with the Public Works Departments of Lake Zurich and Hawthorn Woods. We also maintain a good relationship with the surrounding township highway departments.

In the very near future, we will be starting a recycling program for paints, motor oil, tires; car batteries and tree brush drop off. We will be assisting the Village of Lake Zurich's current program of electronics (Computer & TV's) and other recyclable items.

Storm Water

Our completed storm water projects last summer were the south side of Echo Lake and Plum Grove Roads. This year the north side of Echo Lake Road has been bid out. Other projects in the near future will be new drain tile at Knigge Field, new tile between the Soccer field and Echo Lake Road after easements are secured. There is a project for a new under drain in a section of

Indian Meadows on Tahoe. Future projects our engineers are working on are 2 projects in Forest Lake and Anna Court.

Paving Projects

The following subdivisions or street will be bid out. We will do as much as possible as our budget allows. Streets that do not get repaved will follow onto next year's list.

Subdivision:

Abbey Glen

South Side of Echo Lake

Streets:

Middle Fork

Old Barn

Commercial

Lochanora

We have changed our paving program from just overlaying to grind, binder, mat, and finish surface. This program should allow the roads to last longer.

Also included in our paving program is pavement maintenance. This year we will crack seal a number of streets. This is done on street approximately 2-3 years old.

We are stretching the taxpayer's dollar by having my employees do the fieldwork for the engineer. This way we only have to pay the engineer for the bid preparation. I anticipate a saving of \$30,000 this year.

Other Projects

I am working on getting streets lights in Indian Meadows Subdivision.

In conclusion, my goal in the Highway Department is to continue to improve the services to the residents such as the recycling program. My highest priorities are the storm water, ditching and highway maintenance. I will continue to watch your tax dollar and give you the best service possible.

Bus Service

Our Department took over the bus service in February. I have no report on this except to say the mechanical difficulties I inherited have been repaired and we are looking at other ways to improve service.

Assessor's Report

Assessor is the only Elected Official that must have qualifications to run for assessor and to hold office. She first took office in 1994 and is currently on her third term as Township Assessor. The reason she ran for this office is to do the best job possible for Ela Township residents. Her job is to value all property in the Township and turn in Assessments equivalent of thirty-three and a third percent of those values to the County. The goal is to insure that the Tax burden is spread fairly and uniformly according to States Statutes. At this Annual Town Meeting she reported the following on the two thousand and two tax year.

1. EAV - 1,714,230,340.00
2. Parcels in the Township 15,549
3. Total appeals 244

4. These values are all subject to State equalization.
5. Tax bills will be late. Maybe July 1st.

Assessor Hoffman, Clerk Prouty, Highway Commissioner Kruckenberg, Trustees Black, Burch, Knudtson and Sullivan donated the yellow ribbons that are here tonight No Township funds were used to buy the ribbons. Please take as many as you want in support of our troops in Iraq. Assessor Hoffman is not in agreement of transferring funds from G.A. to General Town. She thinks we should consider helping Servicemen families.

Trustee Sullivan-Finance Chairperson

Has been on the Ela Township Board for Twenty years and people might not like what he is going to say. He welcomed everyone and introduced himself as Trustee and Chairperson of the Finance Committee.

1. He is not happy about things that have occurred in the last few months.
2. A bank that he doesn't even bank at-told him that Townships checks were not any good. Insufficient Funds was the reason and that is uncalled for. We have an Elected Official who is responsible for having funds in the checking account by at least once a month of going to bank and transferring money from the different funds to the checking accounts to cover the checks that are written and you don't blame someone that works for you because the money is not in the checking account. And this is not the first time that checks were bounced and as chairperson of the Finance Committee this will not happen again. I apologize to all the Employees that were embarrassed by this episode.
3. The other issue is when I read an article of about seven million dollars that our committee was going to spend on land. This is ridiculous. A lot of this information has come out of closed sessions and this is illegal. This should not appear in the newspapers. If this mismanagement continues I will take it upon myself as a Board member to bring action against the person that is doing this. Because it continues to happen and I have been quiet for two years and I will be quiet no more.

Trustee Black -Youth and Family Services-Chairperson

This Committee includes Senior, Youth and Bus Service.

1. Opening of the Teen Center
2. Efficiency for Senior Groups
3. Proud of Sue Neuschel award for Senior Director of the year.
4. Bus Transfer and things will be done now in a timely fashion.
5. Establishing a program in respect to a Police Social Worker.

Trustee Knudtson - Chairperson of Social Agency Funding

Trustee Knudtson was asked to do the hardest job of paring down the funding requests.

There were some large requests that needed to be cut back. Trustee Knudtson is a firm believer of limiting funding to agencies that would still be able to function without the Ela Township support.

Funding will be considered on what it can give back the most to Ela Township residents.

Funds will be given out on fiduciary sense and not popularity sense.

Tom Huntsha Information Manager's Job description

1. Nora and myself put together Board packets a week before the Board Meetings.
2. Editor of the newsletter and co-editor of the "55 Plus" newsletter
3. Working on designing the website.

Sue Neuschel Senior Director Report

1. Senior group has increased from a handful of seniors to over 19,173 attending all the events this fiscal year. This is a 13% increase over last year.
2. The mission statement for this substantial increase has three key points
 - a. To address and assess, and advocate for the needs and concerns of Township residents who are 55 years of age or older.
 - b. To promote multi-tiered social, educational and recreational programming to meet the various needs of this population.
 - c. To build partnerships with other organizations and individuals to improve the quality of the lives of seniors while identifying creative ways to solve problems.

Jessica McCarthy Youth Director

1. Youth Center meeting up at the Attic
2. Redone the upstairs to make it presentable.
3. New beanbags, Foosball, air Hockey, VCR. New bright furniture and a big Screen T.V.
4. Thursday new release movies day
5. Friday snacks
6. Open 2:30 to 6:00 Monday to Thursday and until 7:00 Friday
7. Total of 170 students attending.

Trustee Burch's Report Chairperson of Parks and Recreation as read by Trustee Sullivan

1. Elia Township owns and maintain three Parks in the Township
2. New signage going in the Parks
3. In May a major tournament will be held at Knigge Park
4. New irrigation in Knigge Park
5. Planning stages for a concession stand at Knox Park with water and sewer.
6. Repairs in the Parks
7. Moving the Flagpole
8. Eagle Scout Projects include landscaping and park benches for Knox Park.
9. Improving parking at Knox Park
10. As open space becomes scarce -Parks are definitely an investment.

7. Presentation of proposed fiscal year 2003 Operating Budget- Township Supervisor/Treasurer Treasurer's Report

1. Supervisor had the Auditors put all non-cash-fixed assets on the books. And this added another 2 million dollars in assets to what the Township formerly reports.
2. Last year we had a 4 million budget and we spent 2 million and the shortfall was mainly due to road projects and Stormwater, which is currently rolled into this fiscal year. And also had earmarked \$750,000 land acquisition for playing fields.
3. Starting the new fiscal year with four and half million in the bank.
4. Tax revenues are approximately 2 million.
5. Other source of income is interest on the Township's cash.
6. Recoveries for bus system through Pace Grants.
7. Recoveries from the Senior Programs.
8. Also \$750,00 for a OSLAD grant.
9. The total revenue package would be seven and half million
10. Current proposed budget is seven million.
11. Have 90 days to adopt this budget after the fiscal year ends.
12. Overviews on the Budget
 - a. Road District \$600,000 for roads
 - b. Stormwater projects \$550,000
 - c. Road resurfacing \$400,000
 - d. Assessor's Department almost \$400,000
 - e. Bus Services \$300,000
 - f. Senior Center programs \$250,000
 - g. Elected Officials \$240,000
 - h. Social Agencies and Community organizations funding \$170,000
 - i. Administration \$150,000
 - j. Park Improvements \$150,000
 - k. Stop lights \$100,000
 - l. Communication and Newsletter \$95,000
 - m. Youth drop-in Center \$40,000
13. Twenty-five employees in the Township.

8. Transfer funds General Assistance to the General Town Fund-Township Supervisor/Treasurer

Supervisor is recommending moving this one time chance transfer of some of the GA. Funds to the Town Fund. Elia Township Legal Council has advised keeping at least \$33,000 in General Assistance.

9. Declaration of Surplus equipment for the purpose of donating to not-for profit corporations-General Town, Township Supervisor/Treasurer and Road District Funds, Road Commissioner.

1. Assessor has two Gateway Computers
2. Four Monitors
3. Mice
4. Keyboards
5. 2 Bus Radio antennae

Assessor Hoffman's motion to dispose of the above list of surplus inventory, seconded by Nadine Houghkirk. The motion carried by the majority of electors present.

Open Forum for comments and questions from Ela Township residents and electors (limit of three minutes per person)

Nadine Houghkirk- Reading in the paper saying we have no poverty in Ela Township. We definitely have poor hard workers in Ela Township and I would like to see some money go to these persons.

Assessor Hoffman- The money is in General Assistance to help people and I don't believe that once you take this money out that it ever gets put back.

Barb Johnson- Thanked Ela Township Board for \$11,000 and their continuing support of funding to S.R.A.

John Dixon- Encouraging the Board to consider a Township wide Mosquito abatement program. The Center for Disease and Control and Lake County has issued warnings on the West Nile Virus. Lake Zurich is willing to work with the appropriate personnel from Ela Township to explore feasibility of a Township wide program and consideration of this program in this coming year.

Enriched Living representative asked the Board to reconsider their funding request.

Pat Plautz, E.C.S.- talked on the unity of governments, which would be the Ela Area of governments and all the towns in Ela Township would send a representative. We have put on forums every year or so, and the idea of the forums is to discuss different topics. The next forum will discuss health of our environment. This is a grassroots organization and we would need seed money to continue.

Al Froehde- member of Lake Zurich advisory Board and Lake Zurich Sports put him charge. And he contacted all the villages and they all sent a representative and this formed Ela Area Sports Organization, he is here to offer his services.

Mike Talbett-Lake County Board-encouraged everyone in the audience to take advantage of the Lake County Forest Preserves amenities. He talked on how eventually all the bike paths would connect in Lake County.

Barb Evans-Tax dollars should be used in a broader range not just for Seniors and the Youth. Should embrace all Ela Township residents not just a few.

Highway Commissioner Kruckenberg motion to set the date and time (April 13, 2004 at 7:30p.m.)for the Annual Town Meeting in 2004, seconded by Tom Tinerella. The motion carried with the majority electors voting aye.

Highway Commissioner's Kruckenberg motion to adjourn at 9:41P.M. Seconded by Tom Tinerella. The motion carried with the majority of the electors voting aye.

LUCY PROUTY ELA TOWNSHIP CLERK